

In the claims:

Please cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 14 and 32. Please amend claims 1, 10, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30 and 31, and add new claims 33 and 34, as indicated below. Claims 1 and 31 are independent.

1. (amended) An ankle-foot orthosis comprising:

a first tubular portion formed of silicone; said first tubular portion having a first end, a second end, a peripheral wall extending in a first direction from said first end to said second end, and means defining an opening in said peripheral wall;

closing means selectively operable to close said opening in said peripheral wall of said first tubular portion; and

a second tubular portion formed of silicone and having a first end and a second end, at least a portion of said first end of said second tubular portion being contiguous with at least a portion of said second end of said first portion; said second tubular portion being formed integrally with said first tubular portion to extend from said first portion in a second direction transverse to said first direction;

wherein said orthosis is arranged to be worn by a patient so that said first tubular portion envelops the patient's ankle and the entire circumference of a portion of the patient's lower leg in the vicinity of the ankle, and said second tubular portion envelops at least a portion of the plantar and dorsal aspects of the patient's foot, said first and second tubular portions being resiliently flexible to resist plantarflexion of the patient's foot.

10. (amended) An orthosis according to Claim 4, wherein the reinforcing means has a greater resilience than the resilience of said first and second tubular portions.

15. (amended) An orthosis according to Claim 1, wherein said second tubular portion does not envelop the patient's toes.

16. (amended) An orthosis according to Claim 1, wherein said second tubular portion does not envelop the patient's calcaneum.

17. (amended) An orthosis according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second tubular portions are of 35 shore silicone elastomer.

29. (amended) An orthosis according to Claim 2, wherein said reinforcing means comprises a first region of said peripheral wall of said first tubular structure and a second region of a peripheral wall of said second tubular structure, wherein said first and second regions are contiguous and a resilience of said first and second tubular portion peripheral walls inside said first and second regions is greater than a resilience of said first and second tubular portion peripheral walls outside of said first and second regions.

30. (amended) An ankle-foot orthosis according to Claim 1, wherein said first tubular portion and said second tubular portion together define a generally L-shaped cavity.

31. (amended) An ankle foot orthosis for resisting plantarflexion of a patient's foot, the orthosis comprising:

a resiliently flexible L-shaped silicone structure having a first tubular portion, and a second tubular portion that is at least partly contiguous with said first portion and is formed integrally therewith, the structure having an outer surface consisting of a first region having a first resilience and a second region with a second resilience that is greater than said first resilience;

wherein said structure is configured so that said second region overlies at least a portion of a dorsal aspect of the patient's foot and a portion of the patient's lower leg when the orthosis is worn by the patient, said second region being provided to augment the resistance to plantarflexion of the patient's foot provided by the silicone structure of the orthosis.

33. (new) An ankle-foot orthosis according to Claim 1, wherein said second tubular portion additionally envelops both the patient's toes and the patient's calcaneum.

34. (new) An ankle-foot orthosis according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second tubular portions are formed by manually applying a silicone elastomer to a cast of the patient's foot.